



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH
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MEDIA RELEASE
November 14, 2007

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Michigan Surgeon General Launches \$5 Million “Generation With Promise” Project

Project empowers students to improve health, change behaviors

DETROIT – Ten schools with middle-school-aged students in five underserved districts each received a \$25,000 grant today to help their students create policy, environment and behavior changes that can improve their health. The grants are part of the Generation With Promise project, a three-year program funded by a \$5 million grant from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation.

This unprecedented project pairs students with school personnel and community mentors to form Student Action Teams. These teams will review and make recommendations for improved school policies and changes in the school environment, then implement opportunities for students to change behaviors to get them to be more physically active, eat better and not smoke. Students will receive leadership training as part of the program.

“Childhood obesity is on the rise in Michigan, and obesity increases the risk of many other chronic diseases,” says Michigan Surgeon General Kimberlydawn Wisdom, M.D. “This program empowers students in at-risk districts to make meaningful changes in their environments and behaviors that ultimately can lead to decreased risk of chronic disease and obesity.”

Schools receiving the one-year renewable \$25,000 grants are in the Detroit, Hamtramck, Highland Park, Pontiac and Benton Harbor school districts, which are the focus of Governor Jennifer M. Granholm’s “Cities of Promise” initiative. This initiative targets cities with high poverty rates, poor health status, safety issues and infrastructure challenges.

Each school’s Student Action Team will determine how to use a portion of the grant money. They will choose which activities to establish in their schools, such as offering healthy choices in school vending machines or school stores; offering family fitness events or after-school opportunities to be physically active; and establishing and implementing a tobacco-free campus. Schools also will have students complete health surveys and physical fitness testing, and share results and strategies for improvement.

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“The Generation With Promise project involves superintendents, principals, teachers and students in creating healthier school environments,” says Dr. Wisdom. “This leads to healthier kids – and healthy kids make better students who are ready and able to learn.”

The following schools have been chosen to receive \$25,000 grants for year one of the Generation With Promise program:

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|---|---------------|
| • Fair Plain Renaissance Middle School (6 th – 8 th) | Benton Harbor |
| • Hull Middle School (6 th – 8 th) | Benton Harbor |
| • Burns Elementary School (K-8) | Detroit |
| • Hutchins/McMichael Elementary School (K-8) | Detroit |
| • J. F. Nichols Elementary School (K-8) | Detroit |
| • Taft Middle School (6 th – 8 th) | Detroit |
| • Trix Elementary School (K-8) | Detroit |
| • Kosciuszko Middle School (6 th – 8 th) | Hamtramck |
| • Barber Focus School (K-8) | Highland Park |
| • Madison Middle School (6 th – 8 th) | Pontiac |

For more information about the Michigan Surgeon General's healthy lifestyles initiatives, visit www.michiganstepsup.org.

About the W. K. Kellogg Foundation

The W.K. Kellogg Foundation was established in 1930 “to help people help themselves through the practical application of knowledge and resources to improve their quality of life and that of future generations.” The Foundation targets its grants toward specific areas, including health, food systems and rural development, youth and education, and philanthropy and volunteerism. Grants are concentrated in the United States, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the southern African countries of Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Swaziland, and Zimbabwe. For further information, please visit the Foundation's Web site at www.wkkf.org.

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